

WHAT IT MEANS TO REJECT CHRIST

Acts 4:5-12

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Jews are likened to stone masons
 - 1. Expected to know which stones to use especially the corner stone
 - 2. Should know the worth of cornerstone and be able to recognize it
- B. Jews made mistake of rejecting the cornerstone therefore they could not lay the foundation much less build the building
- C. Spiritual application:
 - 1. Christ the rejected stone Matt 21:42; Eph 2:20 ("at nought" worthless, useless)
 - 2. This rejection spelled doom for them spiritually Matt 21:43 Acts 4:12
 - 3. Just as you cannot have cornerstone out of a building and expect it to stand - neither can you leave Christ out of religion (the church)
- D. Let's look at what we reject when we reject Christ

DISCUSSION:

I. REJECT THE ATONEMENT FOR SINS 1Pet 2:24

- A. Atonement: "Reparation (repairs) for offense" "giving satisfaction for a wrong or injury" Webster
 - 1. O. T. Illustration Lev 16:6
 - 2. Blood makes an atonement Lev 17:11
- B. Note lesson taught in Heb 9:22,28; 10:4-14
 - 1. Animal blood cannot take away sin 10:4
 - 2. Jesus did the will of God by offering his body which atoned or bought our justification Rom 5:9
 - 3. Justification: A legal term used in courts in time of Christ. Illustrate: in typing, justify right margin
- C. Men cannot create their own atonement
 - 1. They beat, torture themselves - offer crude sacrifices
 - 2. To ease pain of heart because of accusing conscience
- D. When Christ died he became our atonement

II. REJECT THE GOOD NEWS OF REDEMPTION 2Tim 1:10

- A. Redeem: "To rescue, to ransom, to buy back"
 - 1. We pawned our souls to Satan by sinning – enjoying the flesh Rom 3:10,11,23
 - 2. Christ brought us back 1Pet 1:18,19
- B. "Gospel" = good news concerning Christ Rom 1:16
 - 1. Contains facts to be believed; commands to be obeyed 1Cor 15:1-4; Mk 16:15,16
 - 2. Therein, life and immortality brought to light 2Tim 1:10; Jhn 10:10
- C. Some ashamed of Gospel - turn to something popular
 - 1. Paul warned of perverters Gal 1:8,9

2. Denominations teach contrary to the Gospel

3. Results in vain worship Matt 15:9

D. Rejection of the gospel means destruction 2Thes 1:7-9

III. REJECT ALL HOPE 1Pet 1:3-5

- A. We can have hope only through Christ
 - 1. Difference in hope and wish - wish is desire with expectation to receive - hope is both
 - 2. Doubt comes when we take our eyes off of Christ
- B. Of all man's ills, hope is only cure
 - 1. The captive's freedom, the sick man's health, and the beggar's wealth
 - 2. Martin Luther: "Everything that is done in the world is done by hope."
 - 3. In order to be happy man must have something for which to hope.
 - 4. Think what it means when doctor says: "no hope" or searching party says: "no hope"
 - 5. Gloomiest picture of all is of those without Christ NO HOPE! Eph 2:12
- C. Hope takes us beyond this life 1Thes 4:13-17; it is the anchor of the soul Heb 6:19

IV. REJECT THE CHURCH Matt 21:43

- A. Church belongs to Christ Matt 16:18
 - 1. Purchase price makes it important Acts 20:28
 - 2. Who would pay such for an unneeded item?
- B. Christ built only one church Eph 4:4; Col 1:18
 - 1. Saved are in the church Acts 2:47
 - 2. He is coming to take it to heaven Eph 5:23; 1Cor 15:24
- C. Some want Christ but not the church
 - 1. Say "don't need to go to church - worship at home"
 - 2. "don't need to get involved in work of church."
 - 3. Church is body of Christ Col 1:18,24; Eph 5:23,30
 - 4. How can one be a part of body and not be a part of it?

V. REJECT THE ETERNAL HOME OF SOUL Jhn 14:1-3

- A. Present home will not last 2Cor 5:1
- B. Jesus came and answered Job's question Job 14:14; Jhn 11:25,26
- C. Three great matters concern man: life, death, eternity Christ alone has the only infinite, authoritative and satisfying word concerning all three Rev 1:18
- D. Eternal life is ours only through Christ Rom 6:23; 1Jhn 5:1

CONCLUSION:

- A. If you haven't obeyed the Gospel - His coming was in vain to you.
- B. You have rejected the atonement, the gospel, your hope, the church, heaven.
- C. Will you accept or reject Christ?